

JCWSCS 1 2 JAN 2004

JAN-12-04 03:27PM FROM-MARSHALL & MELHORN

+419-249-7151

T-236 P.01/03 F-368

**MARSHALL  
& MELHORN, LLC**

FOUR SEAGATE, EIGHTH FLOOR, TOLEDO, OHIO 43604  
TELEPHONE NO. (419) 249-7100 FAX NO. (419) 249-7151

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LAW OFFICES OF  
MARSHALL & MELHORN, LLC

FOUR SEAGATE  
EIGHTH FLOOR

TOLEDO, OHIO 43604

(419) 249-7100

TELECOPIER: (419) 249-7151

FIRM E-MAIL: [attorneys@marshall-melhorn.com](mailto:attorneys@marshall-melhorn.com)

<http://www.marshall-melhorn.com>

EDWIN J. MARSHALL (1973-1946)  
DONALD F. MELHORN (1909-1974)

COUNSEL

DONALD F. MELHORN, JR.  
PAUL M. KRAUS  
PHILLIP S. OBERLIN\*

MICHIGAN OFFICE

604 SOUTH MACOMB STREET  
MONROE, MICHIGAN 48101  
17341 467-2444

JUSTICE D. JOHNSON, JR.\*  
THOMAS W. PALMER  
KENNETH J. WHITE  
THOMAS P. WILLAM  
VALERIE A. ROBLETS  
NICHOLAS S. SCHWZGA  
MARSHALL A. BENNETT, JR.  
RUTH A. MEACHAM  
LORI W. GEORGE  
A. THOMAS CHRISTENSEN  
NANCY D. WOODY  
GERARDO R. RODRIGUEZ  
DAVID L. O'CONNELL  
JENNIFER J. DAWSON  
JAMES R. IRWIN  
O. EDWARD DOLOVOROV\*  
MARK A. ROSE\*

DONALD A. SCHURR\*  
AMY M. NATISRAA  
JOHN F. BODIE, JR.  
ROMAN ARCE  
KERNETH J. MAUER  
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MARK A. MASON\*  
BRIDGETT J. ROOT  
ANGELICA M. COLWELL\*  
KRISTEN A. CONNELLY  
JOHN A. BORELL, JR.  
JANICE K. YOON

\*ADMITTED TO PRACTICE BEFORE  
THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
\*ALSO ADMITTED IN MICHIGAN

January 12, 2004

Office of Initial Patent Examination  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
Fax No. (703) 746-9195 **VIA**

RE: U.S. Utility Patent Application Titled - Serial  
No. 10/696,754 HEATING PLATE ASSEMBLY  
FOR A COOKING APPLIANCE (Our File 1-15693)

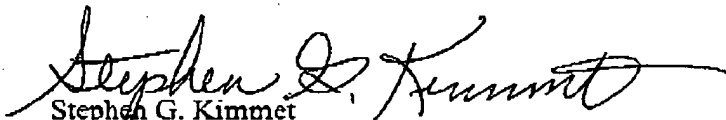
Dear Sir or Madam:

I am inquiring about the filing status of the above-identified utility patent application that was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 29, 2003. We did not receive the Official Filing Receipt and Foreign Filing License on this application.

Since we are approaching the third month, since the filing, with no Official Filing Receipt we would like to know the Official Status of the subject application. You can reply by way of fax to (419) 249-7151.

Best regards,

MARSHALL & MELHORN, LLC

  
Stephen G. Kimmet  
Registration No. 52,488

SGK

**P. S. Originally filed by EXP.MAIL # EV151028133 US**